

External Audit Progress Report

Report of the:	Acting Director of Finance and Resources
Contact:	Lee Duffy, Brendan Bradley
Urgent Decision?(yes/no)	No
If yes, reason urgent decision required:	N/A
Annexes/Appendices (attached):	Annexe 1: External Audit Progress Report Annexe 2: Annual Audit Letter
Other available papers (not attached):	None

Report Summary

This report provides an update of the work the Council's External Auditors are carrying out and identifies emerging issues for Committee to note.

Recommendation (s)

That the Committee:-

- (1) Receives the External Audit Progress Report
- (2) Receives the Annual Audit Letter

1 Implications for the Council's Key Priorities, Service Plans and Sustainable Community Strategy

1.1 This report supports the Council's Key Priority Managing Resources.

2 Background

2.1 Grant Thornton provides the Council's external audit work.

2.2 The 2016/17 audit carried out by Grant Thornton provided the Council with an unqualified opinion on the accounts. The Strategy and Resources Committee received Grant Thornton's Audit Findings Report for 2016/17 at its meeting on 26 September 2017.

Strategy and Resources Committee

28 November 2017

3 Proposals

- 3.1.1 The External Audit Progress Report provides an update of the work being carried out by external audit in 2017/18 (attached as **Annexe 1**). It also identifies any emerging issues and developments that the Committee should be aware of.
- 3.1.2 The Annual Audit Letter (Annexe 2) summarises the 2016/17 Audit Findings Report, which was presented to Strategy and Resources Committee on 26th September 2017.
- 3.1.3 Grant Thornton will attend the committee meeting to introduce this item and answer any questions from Members.

4 Financial and Manpower Implications

- 4.1 The 2016/17 audit carried out by Grant Thornton provided the Council with an unqualified opinion on the accounts.
- 4.2 **Chief Finance Officer's comments:** *The work as planned by our External Auditors is in accordance with the level of work allowed for in the budget.*

5 Legal Implications (including implications for matters relating to equality)

- 5.1 **Monitoring Officer's comments:** *The work of external audit is a key part of the controls in place to ensure that the Council is doing the right thing in the right way at the right time.*
- 5.2 *Grant Thornton work is undertaken in the context of the Statement of Responsibilities of Auditors and Audit Bodies issued by the Comptroller and Auditor General.*

6 Risk Assessment

- 6.1 The audit of the Council's financial statements comprise a key element of the Council's governance arrangements.

7 Conclusion and Recommendations

- 7.1 The Committee is asked to:-
 - 7.1.1 Receive the External Audit Progress Report;
 - 7.1.2 Receive the Annual Audit Letter

Ward(s) Affected: (All Wards);